

## Utah Asthma Task Force

# Utah's Asthma Chronicle

Volume 1, Issue 2

September 2006

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## Changes Among Asthma Program Staff

The Utah Department of Health Asthma Program has a couple of new faces among the staff.

**Rebecca Jorgensen (Becca)** recently replaced Kristina Marsh, who moved to Philadelphia, PA to attend Physician's Assistant (PA) school.

Becca is from Peoa, Utah, a small town in Summit County. She graduated from Weber State University in Public Health and has worked for Intermountain Home Care/Hospice in Summit and Wasatch Counties, and as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Instructor for Mountainlands Applied Technology College. She also was an intern for the Asthma Program, implementing the Asthma School Resource Manual. In her personal time, Becca enjoys riding

horses, camping, hiking and reading. Becca is excited to be back with the Asthma Program and looks forward to meeting and working with members of the task force.

**Patrick Lee**, recently replaced Jess Agraz, who accepted a position with IHC.

Patrick has worked at the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) in the WIC and Immunization Programs for the past two years. Before coming to the UDOH, he did his post graduate internship with the Utah Medical Education Council in Salt Lake City. He graduated with his Bachelors in International Studies, and his Masters of Public Administration, emphasis in Management Analysis, from Brigham Young University, with a minor in Public Health. He has traveled to Africa on four occasions doing AIDS education and research. In his per-

sonal time, Patrick enjoys traveling to beautiful places, both within Utah and around the world.

While **Libbey Chuy** has not permanently left the Asthma Program, she is currently taking a leave of absence, due to her new status as "Mom".

Libbey delivered a healthy baby boy on August 2, 2006. He weighed in at 8 lbs 9.6 oz and 22 inches. His parents named him Jacob Raul Chuy.

The Asthma Program would like to congratulate the happy parents and wish them the best of luck in this new adventure. Libbey is expected to return to work in November, but will be cutting back her hours. Until then, the Asthma Program has hired a temporary employee, Janae Duncan to fill in for Libbey while she is away.

## Take A Look At What's Coming Up...

### September 2006

**27th-** Asthma Certification Prep Workshop: Designed to prepare those interested in taking the National Asthma Educator Certification Exam. Contact Melissa at the American Lung Association at 801-484-4456.

### October 2006

**18th-** Utah Asthma Summit 2006: An all day workshop to lay the groundwork to create a NEW 5-year plan, scheduled to be released Spring 2007.

**25th-26th-** The American College of Chest Physicians Annual Meeting. Recognized around the world as the authority in clinical chest medicine. For more information log on to [www.chestnet.org](http://www.chestnet.org).

### November 2006

**TBA-** Open Airways for Schools Instructor Training. Contact Vicki at the American Lung Association at 801-484-4456 for more information.

### January 2007

**9th-** Asthma Task Force Meeting. Contact Cherissa at [cherissaw@utahlung.org](mailto:cherissaw@utahlung.org) for more information.



## Utah Asthma Summit- 2006

Over the past three years the Utah Asthma Task Force has been successful in implementing the Utah Asthma State Plan. After much success, it is now time to revise the three-year-old plan, and the Utah Asthma Task Force invites all to be part of this process.

**Mark Your Calendars:**  
**October 18, 2006**  
**The E Center**  
**8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.**

Register at: [www.health.utah.gov/asthma/taskforce.html](http://www.health.utah.gov/asthma/taskforce.html)

Implementation highlights from the current Utah Asthma State Plan include:

- The Utah Asthma School Resource Manual and training in over 150 schools across the state.
- A comprehensive surveillance system (Medicaid, Pharmacy, School, Hospital, etc.).
- The Pediatric Provider Resource Manual.
- Implementing EPA's Indoor Air Quality "Tools for Schools" in select districts state wide.
- Developing an online educa-

tional program for coaches, referees and PE teachers.

[www.WinningWithAsthma.org](http://www.WinningWithAsthma.org)

- Conducting several successful public awareness/media campaigns.
- A Health Plan Inventory.
- Compiling a list of reduced cost, or free resources to access asthma medications.

The input of task force members is vital to the effectiveness of the plan, and we look forward to great collaboration in this process.

For more information, contact Janae Duncan at [janaeduncan@utah.gov](mailto:janaeduncan@utah.gov).

## Asthma Resources for the Under and Un-Insured

Asthma and its related costs (emergency department and hospital visits as well as monthly medication cost's) is a growing concern for the estimated 222,262 individuals with asthma in Utah. The total estimated cost of asthma is well over \$80 million, with more than \$46 million in direct medical expenses, and \$34 million related to indirect costs (Asthma in Utah: 2004 Update).

Many Utahns with asthma who are under, or un-insured, have a difficult time getting the appropriate medical attention they require to help them manage their asthma properly. This is the reason patient assistance programs are put in place.

The Utah Department of Health recently compiled a list of Utah specific resources to assist those indi-

viduals looking for financial help with doctor visits and monthly medications. All services are at reduced or no cost; some medical care includes dental, and mental health services. For more information and links to the varying services, log onto the Asthma Program website at <http://www.health.utah.gov/asthma/community.html>

## Next Steps for Asthma Genomic Work Plan

In April 2006, the Utah Asthma Task Force and the Utah Department of Health Genomics Program teamed up to present the first ever Asthma Genomic Workshop in Utah. The focus was to bring together individuals interested in the role genomics will play in the future of asthma in Utah. Topics included: pharmacogenomics, family health history, and the ethical, legal and social issues behind this upcoming research. At the end of the presentations, participants came together to discuss next steps, and what they still wanted to know about each topic.

Following the workshop, the Asthma

and Genomic Programs pulled together the notes from the workshop topic discussions to compile a list of priorities for future project ideas. From that list, the following list of priorities have been established:

- Develop "101" fact sheets on genetics vs. genomics, pharmacogenomics, etc.
- Develop a public awareness campaign to educate on the importance of knowing your family health history.
- Develop a general public survey to determine beliefs and ideals about genetic/genomic issues.

There are several other priorities for this new asthma/ genomic action group, a component of the Utah Asthma Task Force, which was discussed in more detail at a meeting held earlier this month. For more information, contact Cherissa Wood at 801-484-4456.



## Task Force Champion



David Foley has worked at the Salt Lake Valley Health Department (SLVHD) in the Injury Prevention Program for the past 3 ½ years. His main responsibilities include environmental

health education (primarily asthma, methamphetamines, and air pollution), household poisoning prevention education, injury data collection/analysis, as well as training parents on correct installation of car seats. He also leads SLVHD high

school seat belt program.

The Utah Asthma Task Force has appreciated Dave's involvement over the past two years, as he has been an active participant on the Risk Factors and Public Awareness Action Groups. One of the main contributions has been his involvement in implementing the Tools for Schools Program in the Granite School District, as well as assisting in numerous media campaigns.

Dave graduated from Brigham Young University with his Bachelors in Health Sciences, Community Health

Education Emphasis, and will graduate with his M.S.P.H. in December from the University of Utah. He is also a certified car seat technician and CPS Instructor.

A few personal items about Dave, are that he has competed in two sprint triathlons, and has recently organized a flag football team. His favorite place in Utah is Moab, but he'd love to live in St. Louis, Missouri some day. Dave and his wife have a two-year-old son Isaac, with another son due the beginning of September.

## Asthma Pediatric Provider Resource Manual

The Utah Asthma Task Force Provider Action Group has been working tirelessly over the past year to develop the Asthma Pediatric Provider Resource Manual. The project began when the Utah Collaborative Medical Home Project approached the provider group a few years ago to develop their pediatric asthma module for their web-based Med-Home Portal. Once the module was

complete the provider group reformatted the module into a manual format. The manual is designed to assist health care providers, and pediatricians in the diagnosing and managing of asthma in young children. The manual includes information taken from National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute (NHLBI) Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma, as well as clinical assessment,

treatment, patient education, and more. The manual is scheduled to be released October 2006 and will be accessible in hardcopy, PDA, and CD-ROM form, as well as on the Asthma Program website.

For more information, contact Becca Jorgensen at 538-9272.

## 2006-2007 Asthma Community Mini Grants

The past two years, the UDOH Asthma Program has awarded community mini grants to organizations throughout Utah focusing on asthma awareness, education, and patient management. The Asthma Program has awarded three new mini grants to the following organizations:

**Salt Lake Valley Health Department (SLVHD)-** Their goal is to develop a needs assessment for the burden of asthma in Hispanic communities. They intend to recruit families from three Utah areas that have at least one family member with asthma. Trained bilingual interns will promote the program in a specific community, as well as conduct brief interviews with each participant to assess how often asthma attacks oc-

cur in the home, and how often they require medical attention. Questions, contact David Foley at 801-468-2750.

**University of Utah, Department of Health Promotion & Education-** Their goal is to develop continuing education for pre-hospital emergency responders, primarily Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) across the state, related to asthma and other chronic lung diseases. They will focus on training EMTs serving rural communities through live presentations in four regional sites. They also intend to convert the presentations into a web based educational program to be made available to emergency responders in pre-service training, or as continuing education to EMTs already in

the field. Questions, contact Les Chatelain at 801-581-4512.

**University of Utah, Department of Biomedical Informatics-** Their goal is to link patient records indicative of asthma related disease from IHC's data warehouse to genealogical records stored in the Utah Population Database, for the purpose of examining the heritable predisposition to asthma within the Utah population. Questions, contact Craig Teerlink at 801-587-9352.

**Asthma Mini Grants  
begin September 2006  
and continue through  
August 2007.**

We're on the web at:  
[www.health.utah.gov/asthma](http://www.health.utah.gov/asthma)

## UTAH ASTHMA TASK FORCE

If you would like more information regarding  
this newsletter or you have a story you  
would like to include in the next issue, please  
contact Cherissa Wood.  
Phone: 801-484-4456  
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